



## De Baca County

**Oct/Nov/Dec  
2011**

PO Box 329  
Fort Sumner, NM  
88119

Ph: (575) 355-2448,  
Ext 2  
Fax: (575) 355-7437

**Hours**  
Monday - Friday  
8:00 a.m. - 4:00 p.m.

### County Staff:

Earl Sena, County  
Executive Director

Perri Jennings,  
Lead Program  
Technician

### County Committee:

Glenda Armstrong,  
Chair

Rodney McClain,  
Vice Chair

Eddie Pena,  
Member

Monthly meetings  
held the 3rd Thursday  
of each month at 1:30  
p.m.

**Exception:**  
**October-No mtg**  
**November 9**  
**December 8**

### Website:

[www.fsa.usda.gov/nm](http://www.fsa.usda.gov/nm)

## IMPORTANT DATES TO REMEMBER

October 7	Payments scheduled to be issued for DCP
October 10	OFFICE CLOSED-Columbus Day
October 14	Payments scheduled to be issued for CRP
<b>November 1</b>	<b>Deadline to file Notice of Loss for NAP Native Grass coverage due to drought</b>
November 4	County Committee Election Ballots mailed to producers in LAA-1
November 6	Daylight Savings Time Ends
November 8	ELECTION DAY
November 11	OFFICE CLOSED-Veterans Day
November 14-18	Negotiations Session in Washington, DC—Personnel Limited
November 20	NAP Deadline for apples, apricots, caneberries, grapes, peaches, pears, pistachios, plums
November 24-25	OFFICE CLOSED-Thanksgiving Holiday
December 1	NAP Deadline for honey, lettuce
December 2	Deadline to apply for Environmental Quality Incentives Program (EQIP) with NRCS
December 5	Deadline to submit completed County Committee Election Ballots to county office or post-marked
December 8	County Committee Meeting—Count Ballots @ 1:30pm
December 23-26	OFFICE CLOSED-Christmas Holiday

**Livestock Forage Disaster Program (LFP)** applications continue to be processed for producers who purchased NAP coverage for the 2011 crop year. Due to heavy response and system overload, processing has been delayed nationwide. We understand the severity of the drought and the need for this assistance by all producers and are working diligently to get applications processed. We ask for your patience once more and trust that when paperwork is ready to sign, we will contact you immediately.

Previously, the USDA Management/NASCOE Negotiations Sessions was cancelled, however, thanks to our new FSA Administrator, Bruce Nelson, it has now been rescheduled. During the week of November 14-18, our PT will be traveling as the Southwest Area Negotiations Consultant to Washington, DC. Personnel will be limited during these times due to this schedule. Office hours will be held in De Baca County on Monday 11/14, Wednesday 11/16 and Friday 11/18; Office hours for Guadalupe County will be held Tuesday 11/15 and Thursday 11/17. Please feel free to call ahead to verify availability of CED to assist you with your needs.

The deadline to file **NAP Notice of Loss for Native Grass** is November 1, however, we are accepting notices anytime between now and then. Due to the extreme drought conditions present in our county, we have been authorized to begin assessments early in order to finalize and submit our grazing loss package to the FSA State Committee.

The **Farm Service Agency (FSA)** is the US Department of Agriculture's principal agency charged with promoting a stable and abundant American food supply. This objective is best met by supporting America's production agriculture community and helping protect the Nation's food and natural resources.

FSA serves the public by providing all farmers and ranchers access and opportunity to participate in farm commodity, credit, conservation, environmental, and emergency assistance programs. Through these activities, FSA supports the USDA mission and helps ensure a healthful, stable, accessible, and affordable food supply. Through these programs, FSA also fosters good land stewardship, which will help preserve our agricultural prosperity for generations to come.

FSA is dedicated to:

- Serving our customers through effective program delivery.
- Following sound management policies and financial procedures.
- Providing fair and equitable treatment of customers and employees.
- Ensuring producer compliance with program provisions.
- Promoting land and natural resource stewardship.
- Providing charitable food distributions; and
- Meeting future challenges and opportunities.

**Farm Programs help producers manage Market Risks:** Farmers and ranchers face weather and market uncertainties. FSA delivers programs that help producers manage risks and strengthen the agricultural economy and rural communities. FSA responds to rapidly changing farm markets and agricultural policies by focusing on producer needs. The key to FSA's success is the development of policies and procedures that implement commodity and conservation program statutes. FSA is continuously making improvements in farm programs to ensure they are administered cost-effectively and equitably.

**Disaster Assistance helps producers manage Weather Risks:** When disaster strikes, FSA reacts promptly to help producers recover their noninsurable crop losses. The Noninsured Crop Disaster Assistance Program (NAP) is federally funded and provides financial assistance to producers affected by natural disasters. The Emergency Conservation Program (ECP) shares with agricultural producers in the cost of rehabilitating lands damaged by natural disasters. During severe drought, ECP also provides emergency water assistance-both for livestock and for existing orchard and vineyard irrigation systems (subject to fund availability). Conservation Reserve Program (CRP) acreage can also be made available for emergency haying and grazing situations. FSA also provides emergency loans to help producers recover from production and physical losses due to drought, flooding, other natural disasters, or quarantines.

**Farm Loan Programs help producers manage Credit Needs:** Farming is a sophisticated business requiring substantial resources and extensive management skills. FSA makes and guarantees loans and provides credit counseling and supervision to farmers and ranchers who are temporarily unable to obtain private, commercial credit. Many FSA loan applicants are beginning farmers who do not qualify for conventional loans because of insufficient net worth. Other applicants are established farmers/ranchers who have suffered financial setbacks from natural disasters or economic downturns.

**Protecting the Environment:** FSA protects America's natural resources by administering conservation and environmental programs and activities to conserve our Nation's natural resources, including land, water, air, and wildlife. The Conservation Reserve Program (CRP) is a voluntary program where landowners receive annual rental payments to put farmland into environmentally friendly conservation uses. The Environmental Quality Incentives Program (EQIP), which is administered by the Natural Resource Conservation Service (NRCS), offers financial and technical assistance to participants who install or implement structural and management practices that help reach conservation goals. The new Grassland Reserve Program (GRP) will enhance water quality, increase wildlife habitat, and help conserve native rangeland and is administered by both agencies.

**Reaching Out to the Underserved:** FSA's Outreach Program identifies and works with partner organizations and customers to overcome such barriers to program participation as language and cultural differences, transportation challenges in remote areas, and challenges to comprehension of program requirements and procedures. The program places special emphasis on reaching socially disadvantaged and limited resource farmers and ranchers and members of racial and ethnic minority groups. FSA's special lending programs give new or underserved farmers a hand by bringing opportunities to those unable to secure financing from commercial sources. FSA reserves direct and guaranteed loan funds each year to help socially disadvantaged applicants buy and operate farms and ranches. Direct loans for both ownership and operating purposes are made at reduced interest rates to low-income farmers and ranchers.

**Sharing America's Bounty:** In cooperation with other Federal agencies, FSA helps feed millions of people across America and around the world. FSA plays an important role in America's worldwide humanitarian and goodwill efforts. Working with USDA's Foreign Agricultural Service and Food and Nutrition Service, FSA makes it possible to share America's bounty of nutritious food with those in need. FSA purchases and delivers agricultural commodities to foreign countries under Federal food aid programs and with the help of voluntary agencies, the World Food Program, and the US Agency for International Development. Domestically, FSA makes commodities available to the Bureau of Indian Affairs, Federal, State, and private agencies for feeding programs. Food items are used for the National School Lunch Program, Commodity Supplemental Food Program, the Emergency Food Assistance Program, and other programs that provide food for summer camps for kids, needy persons, and others. USDA's Commodity Credit Corporation contributes to school feeding programs that help assure that children attend and remain in school to improve childhood development and achievement, thereby contributing to a more self-reliant, productive society.

**Implementing Policy with a Local Voice:** FSA is guided by the farmers and ranchers it serves. Locally elected county committees provide producers a much-needed say in how Federal actions affect their communities and their individual operations. County Committee Members work with local staff to administer programs, provide policy direction, and guide eligibility requirements. County Committees provide important insight into how farm programs affect local communities.

**Focusing on the Future:** FSA is committed to improving customer service and program delivery with the latest technology and information management systems. FSA has worked with its partner, NRCS, to establish USDA Service Centers that share a common computing environment including hardware, administrative software, and telecommunications infrastructure. Eligibility documents are processed through FSA and shared with NRCS for administration of programs by the appropriate agency. We hope this has improved customer service for our producers along with reduced costs by making better use of time, technology, and skills.

**eGovernment:** As part of the Federal Government's eGovernment (eGov) initiative, FSA has worked to streamline operations and increase efficiency using the World Wide Web. Under the eGov initiative, FSA, along with other USDA agencies, has developed and implemented online eForms. Using eForms, producers can access forms and account information online. FSA has also activated an electronic warehouse receipt system to facilitate low-cost commercial and interstate trade of agricultural commodities.

**GIS and Satellite Imagery:** FSA, along with other USDA agencies, is implementing Geographic Information Systems (GIS) and Global Positioning Systems technology. These technologies, combined with aerial photographs and satellite imagery, are helping staff more efficiently measure land features, identify crop types, and establish maps for farm/ranch records.

**FSA-Administered Programs:** FSA currently administers over 50 programs with a few being jointly administered with NRCS. Not all programs are available in all counties at all times and some programs are subject to funding. For more information, visit [www.fsa.usda.gov](http://www.fsa.usda.gov) or contact your local USDA Service Center.

De Baca County FSA  
PO Box 329  
Fort Sumner, NM 88119



PRSRT STD  
Postage Fees Paid  
Farm Service Agency  
Permit No. G-96

Supplemental Agricultural Disaster Assistance is now being offered to producers who did not purchase NAP coverage for native grass for the 2011 crop year. If you own or cash lease rangeland AND own livestock, you may request relief in order to become eligible for the Livestock Forage Program (this relief is limited to the Forage Program ONLY and does not provide NAP coverage). If granted, producers must pay a fee in the amount of \$250 for native grass in order to become eligible for the Livestock Forage Program. Please visit the local FSA office to file request or receive additional information. The last day to file a relief request is January 10, 2012 for losses that occurred before October 1, 2011.

As the end of 2011 quickly approaches, the staff at the De Baca County Service Center would like to thank you for your business. We strive to serve you in the most professional and efficient manner possible. We are here to serve you-**The Producers**-the foundation of our service center, and your needs as the farmers and ranchers of De Baca County!

### ***The Gift of Knowing You***

*The holiday season fills our hearts with joy;  
Bright, happy days bring special kinds of pleasure.  
We're wrapped in the excitement of it all,  
The sights, the sounds, the smells, the tastes we treasure.*

*Yet when we have some quiet time to think  
About our finest blessings all year through,  
We focus on family, friends, and customers  
And appreciate the gift of knowing you!*

FSA Staff: Earl Sena-County Executive Director and Perri Jennings-Lead Program Technician  
NRCS Staff: Josh Miller-Acting District Conservationist, Nathan Fuchs-Soil Conservationist,  
Sean Lewis-Area Rangeland Specialist and Kari Henry-SWCD/Farm Bill Specialist